

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

of Pisa. He was still there when the Council of Constance met in 1415—the final movement for unity coming not from the rival claimants to the Papacy nor from their cardinals, but from the new King of the Romans, Sigismund of Hungary. Giovanni Dominici, now known as the Cardinal of Ragusa, having been allowed to convoke the Council anew as legate of Gregory XII, the fathers, on July 4, accepted Gregory's abdication. They had previously, on May 29, deposed John. But, at Perpignan, the indomitable old Benedict still held out. The personal intervention of King Sigismund himself proved fruitless ; Benedict would only abdicate on his own impossible terms. In November, he fled, and took refuge in Peftiscola, a strong castle securely placed over the Mediterranean. Aragon, Castile, and Navarre now withdrew their obedience from him, St. Vincent Ferrer publicly declaring that, although Benedict was the lawful Pope, the three Kings were thus offering an Epiphany gift to God and the Church for unity and peace. To all appeals, Benedict had one inflexible reply : " Here is the ark of Noah." On July 26, 1417, the Council condemned him as a perjurer, an incorrigible schismatic, and a heretic ; and, on November 11, Ottone Colonna, the son of the Cardinal Agapito already mentioned, was elected Pope, and took the title of Martin V.

The Schism was now officially at an end, and the Church practically pledged to the cause for which Catherine had battled to the death—the validity of the claims of Urban and his successors in the Roman obedience. But, from his refuge at Pefiiscola, Pedro de Luna (as we will now again call Benedict) still asserted his prerogatives, anathematizing the new Pope and his cardinals, protesting that he alone was the vicar of Christ. He grew hard and embittered, even putting two priests to the torture to obtain evidence of a plot against his life. Nor was he without adherents. In September, 1419, complaints were made

that the majority of the inhabitants of Languedoc
and Guyenne
still acknowledged him, and he was still being obeyed
in some parts
of Scotland in 1420. He had also the powerful
support of the
Counts of Armagnac. At length, either on
November 29, 1422,